

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A communication system, comprising:

a downstream transmission system configured to transmit downstream wireless communications to a user over a plurality of downstream channels; and

an upstream receiver system configured to receive upstream wireless communications from the user over a plurality of upstream channels, the plurality of upstream channels ~~including~~ comprising more than one contention channel and a plurality of bearer channels, wherein each of the more than one contention channel is associated with a portion of the plurality of bearer channels, the upstream receiver system further configured to receive requests from the user over the more than one contention channel, ~~wherein the requests are~~ each request is for access to the portion of the plurality of bearer channels associated with the one of the more than one contention channel carrying the request for the upstream wireless communications.

2. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim 1 wherein the upstream receiver system comprises:

a communication processing system configured to:

receive the upstream wireless communications from the user over the plurality of upstream channels,

split the plurality of upstream channels into a first group of upstream channels and a second group of upstream channels, the first group of upstream channels ~~includes~~ comprising a first one of the more than one contention channel and a first portion of the plurality of bearer channels, the second group of upstream channels ~~includes~~ comprising a second one of the more than one contention channel and a second portion of the plurality of bearer channels,

transfer first upstream communications over the first group of upstream channels, and

transfer second upstream communications over the second group of upstream channels;

a first upstream manager system configured to receive first requests over the first one of the more than one contention channel, wherein the first requests are for access to the first portion of the plurality of bearer channels, and grant the user access to the first portion of the plurality of

bearer channels responsive to the first requests; and

a second upstream manager system configured to receive second requests over the second one of the more than one contention channel, wherein the second requests are for access to the second portion of the plurality of bearer channels, and grant the user access to the second portion of the plurality of bearer channels responsive to the second requests.

3. (Original) The communication system of claim 1 wherein the downstream wireless communications and the upstream wireless communications are in a Multichannel Multipoint Distribution Service (MMDS) frequency range.

4. (Original) The communication system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of upstream channels each have a bandwidth of less than 200 kiloHertz.

5. (Original) The communication system of claim 1 wherein the upstream receiver system is further configured to grant the user access to the plurality of bearer channels for the upstream wireless communications by generating a credit and transmitting the credit to the user.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a communication system comprised of a downstream transmission system and an upstream receiver system, the method comprising the steps of:

in the downstream transmission system, transmitting downstream wireless communications to a user over a plurality of downstream channels; and

in the upstream receiver system, receiving upstream wireless communications from the user over a plurality of upstream channels, the plurality of upstream channels including comprising more than one contention channel and a plurality of bearer channels, wherein each of the more than one contention channel is associated with a portion of the plurality of bearer channels, and receiving requests from the user over the more than one contention channel, wherein the requests are each request is for access to the portion of the plurality of bearer channels associated with the one of the more than one contention channel carrying the request for the upstream wireless communications.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the upstream receiver system comprises a communication processing system, a first upstream manager system, and a second upstream manager system, the method further comprising the steps of:

in the communication processing system,

after receiving the upstream wireless communications from the user over the plurality of upstream channels, splitting the plurality of upstream channels into a first group of upstream channels and a second group of upstream channels, the first group of upstream channels ~~includes~~ comprising a first one of the more than one contention channel and a first portion of the plurality of bearer channels, the second group of upstream channels ~~includes~~ comprising a second one of the more than one contention channel and a second portion of the plurality of bearer channels, transferring first upstream communications over the first group of upstream channels, and transferring second upstream communications over the second group of upstream channels;

in the first upstream manager system, receiving first requests over the first one of the more than one contention channel, wherein the first requests are for access to the first portion of the plurality of bearer channels, and granting the user access to the first portion of the plurality of bearer channels responsive to the first requests; and

in the second upstream manager system, receiving second requests over the second one of the more than one contention channel, wherein the second requests are for access to the second portion of the plurality of bearer channels, and granting the user access to the second portion of the plurality of bearer channels responsive to the second requests.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the downstream wireless communications and the upstream wireless communications are in a Multichannel Multipoint Distribution Service (MMDS) frequency range.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the plurality of upstream channels each have a bandwidth of less than 200 kiloHertz.

10. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising granting the user access to the plurality of bearer channels for the upstream wireless communications by generating a credit and

transmitting the credit to the user.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of adjusting a communication system for increased performance for broadband wireless communications, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a first wireless control system configured to receive upstream wireless communications from a user over a first number of upstream channels, the first number of upstream channels ~~comprised of~~ comprising a single contention channel and a first plurality of bearer channels, the first wireless control system further configured to receive first requests from the user over the single contention channel for access to the first plurality of bearer channels and grant the user access to one or more of the first plurality of bearer channels responsive to the first requests;

decreasing a bandwidth of each of the first number of upstream channels to generate a second number of upstream channels, the second number of upstream channels being greater than the first number of upstream channels;

operating at least two of the second number of upstream channels as contention channels, the at least two of the second number of upstream channels comprising a first contention channel and a second contention channel; and

operating a remainder of the second number of upstream channels as the bearer channels to generate a second plurality of bearer channels.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

receiving the upstream wireless communications from the user over the second number of upstream channels in the first wireless control system and a second wireless control system;

in the first wireless control system, receiving second requests from the user over the first contention channel, wherein the second requests are for access to the second plurality of bearer channels, and granting the user access to at least one of the second plurality of bearer channels responsive to the second requests; and

in the second wireless control system, receiving third requests from the user over the second contention channel, wherein the third requests are for access to the second plurality of bearer channels, and granting the user access to at least one of the second plurality of bearer channels responsive to the third requests.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

receiving the upstream wireless communications in a communication processing system;
splitting the second number of upstream channels into a first group of upstream channels and a second group of upstream channels, the first group of upstream channels ~~includes~~ comprising the first contention channel and a first portion of the second plurality of bearer channels, the second group of upstream channels ~~includes~~ comprising the second contention channel and a second portion of the second plurality of bearer channels,
transferring first upstream communications over the first group of upstream channels to the first wireless control system, and
transferring second upstream communications over the second group of upstream channels to the second wireless control system.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the upstream wireless communications are in a Multichannel Multipoint Distribution Service (MMDS) frequency range.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein each of the second number of upstream channels has a bandwidth of less than 200 kiloHertz.